

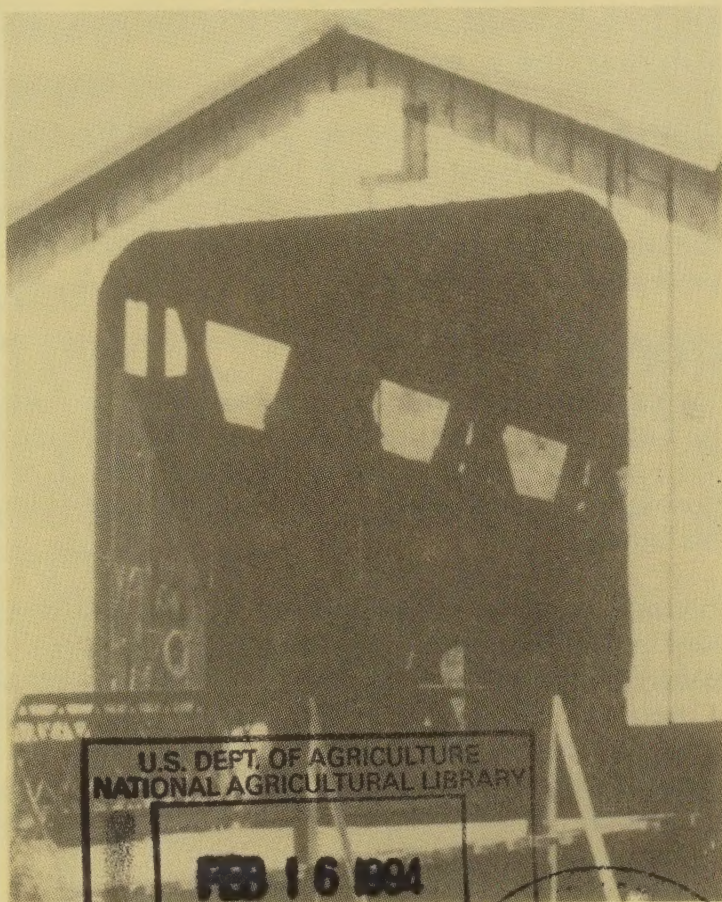
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COVERED BRIDGE

Scenic Byway Auto Tour



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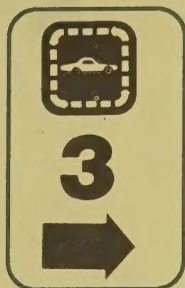
United States Department of Agriculture

Wayne National Forest
K12 447

Welcome to the Wayne National Forest, Covered Bridge Scenic Byway!

Do you know what Mail Pouch Tobacco, oil wells, and covered bridges all have in common? They are part of the history of Southeast Ohio, and things you can see and discover along the Covered Bridge Scenic Byway.

To guide you along the self-guiding tour, look for the symbols/tour markers that will lead you to each stop. The tour route map will show you the approximate location of each stop along the road as well.



How Long? The tour will take you from between one to two hours, depending on how long you wish to spend at each stop.

To Begin. Our tour begins at the Hills Covered Bridge, a few miles north of Marietta, just off Route 26. Look for the Tour Stop Directional Markers, and Tour Stop Marker #1 on the right hand side of the highway.

STOP #1

Covered Bridges. . .Ohio once had more of these than any other state. We had over 2000 of them! The national leader today is Pennsylvania. You'll be able to see and visit four covered bridges along this byway.

This one is called Hills Covered Bridge, and was built in 1878 by Hocking Valley Bridge Works. It features a Howe truss. To learn more about what a "truss" is, take a look at the interpretive exhibit panel located near the parking area. Take a few minutes here to look around. When you're ready to move on, we will give you some directions for finding the next stop.

Your next stop will lead you past some of Harley Warrick's National Treasures, just about 4 miles north on Rt. 26. This stop will give you something to chew on! Watch for tour stop marker #2.

STOP #2

It all started for Harley Warrick back in 1946 when he was discharged from the Army at the end of World War II. Mail Pouch Tobacco barn painters came to paint the barn on his family's farm, and they had an opening on one of their teams. \$28.00 a week base pay plus 1 1/2 cents a square foot production incentive. His take home pay could be as much as \$32.00 a week! Two to three barns a day, six days a week. That was his pace for the first twenty years. Today, the Barn Paintings are considered "landmark signs", of historic or artistic significance. You will probably see several Mail Pouch Signs as you drive this byway.



Our next stop on the tour will be a visit to another covered bridge. Watch for tour marker number three. The bridge will be on the right side of the road. Turn right, down the gravel road, to the US Forest Service parking area.

STOP #3

Do you know why covered bridges were covered? To keep the rain or snow off of the travelers? Or perhaps to protect the plank roadways of the bridges? No...roofs were put on the bridges to keep the main structural timbers dry. Solid as they might look, they would quickly rot if left exposed to rains, and then scorched by the sun.

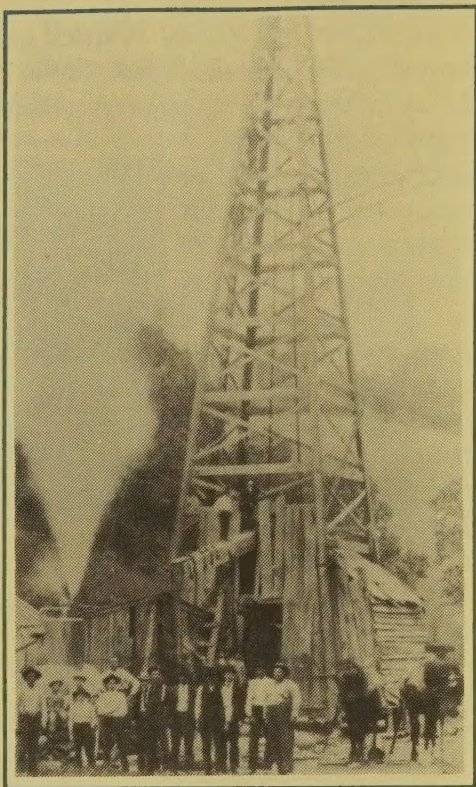


This is the Hune Covered Bridge, built in 1879, with a 12 panel Long Truss. Take some time to look around. Your next stop (Stop #4) is the Oil Pump located here in the parking area. After you visit the bridge, take a few minutes to learn about our oil and gas history.

STOP #4

In Search of Oil

...No! The birth of Ohio's petroleum industry began in southeastern Ohio in 1814 near the village of South Olive, not too far from here. Of course they weren't looking for Oil. They were drilling a well searching for brine, but brine and oil shot out of the hole. The well was a failure for brine, but the high gravity oil was used in lamps and



for lighting. Back in the early 1800's there wasn't a big market for oil, and some people called it "Devils Grease".

Your next stop is the Hune House, just a short drive from here. Return to Rt. 26 and turn right. You can't miss the large, white house on the left side of the road, and tour stop marker #5.

STOP #5

Part of the Inn Crowd?



If you were visiting this area in the late 1800's you might have been. At a time when most of their neighbors were living in small log or frame buildings in this one time remote area of the country, the Hune

house was a landmark. Built in two sections by William Hune, an early settler in the community of Lawrence, the first part of the house was built in 1885 and the addition built in 1889. It is believed that the Hunes took in boarders, and the house was called locally "Hune Inn". The house is being restored to be operated as a Bed and Breakfast.

What's in store for you next? Your next stop (#6) is the Meyers General Store, on the left side of the road. Look for the tour stop marker and parking area.

STOP #6

The communications network. That was one of the many roles for the country or general store.



Meyers General Store

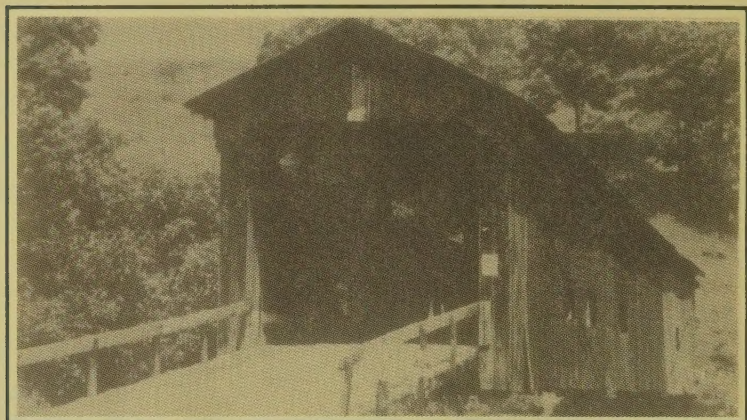
circa 1890's

This one has been serving this and nearby communities for over 100 years! In the "old" days, residents could send and pick up their mail here, and it was for many years, the site of the only telephone in the community. While times have changed, the importance of the country store to the community has not, and you can still get just about a little bit of everything here. Take some time to go in.

Your next stop is up the road on the right. It's your chance to discover more about the history of covered bridges. Look for the tour stop marker #7.

STOP #7

Kissing Bridges? They were masterpieces of engineering- but horse and buggy America called them "Kissing Bridges" for their dark interiors proved ideal for what a later generation was to refer to as "spooning". They were called "wishing bridges" too, for everyone knows that a wish made in a covered bridge comes true.



This is the Rinard Covered bridge built in 1876. Take a few minutes to go in and look around. Oh yes. . . don't forget to make your wish!

Ghost stories and legends are part of the legacy of some covered bridges. At stop #8 you'll have a chance to "bridge" past to present. Look for the stop marker on the right side of the road.

STOP #8

Remember the legend of Sleepy Hollow? The sight of some back-road covered bridges today reminds us of the ghost stories and legends that tingle the scalp of many a small child who walked its gloomy length as the sun was sinking from sight. For some, it recalls old yarns, like the one about the "rube heading into Pittsburgh from a small town in Ohio who, upon reaching a covered bridge over the Allegheny, saw that the entrance was large enough for his load, but considered the hole at the other end entirely too small, and headed back home again!" What memories or feelings do covered bridges bring out in you?

Imagine how hard life must have been for the earliest settlers in this region. At the Lamping Homestead Site, you will learn just how hard it was. Follow the tour marker directional arrows to the Lamping Site, which is also a Forest Service Picnic Area.

STOP #9

A miller by trade, Walter Ring and his wife Margaret purchased this land in 1840, when they started working on the stone house you see here. In 1848 they replaced an old grist mill on this site with a new one, and added a sawmill in 1850, and operated until the 1920's when the mills were both damaged by floods. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

STOP #10

Do It yourself?

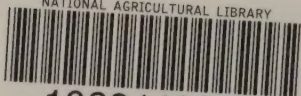


For the Lamping family, life was hard. Just imagine, you would have had to build your own house, clear your land for farming, grow your own food, and create your own entertainment. And with no doctors nearby, what would you do if someone got really ill? New beginnings were a lot of hard work and not always successful. For the Lamping family, it must have been especially difficult. The small cemetery located nearby is a testimony to the hardships of trying to raise a family on an early homestead.

You are almost done with the tour, only two more stories to share with you. There will not be any formal stops as you continue to drive north on Rt. 26.

The Land Speaks? As you continue to drive along, you have seen forests mixed with farm land. Once in the late 1800's there was a very active logging industry here, and most of the trees were cut down. Imagine driving along this road and not seeing any trees! After the area was logged out, agriculture grew in importance. Some farmers practiced ridge-top farming, plowing and planting the then denuded hill tops. The soil quickly eroded away, and with a few decades, the farms could not produce on these worn out soils.

Today, with a good knowledge of soil and water conservation, these problems are under control. The trees and ground cover on the hill tops and slopes helps stop erosion and slows down any run-off of top soil into nearby streams.



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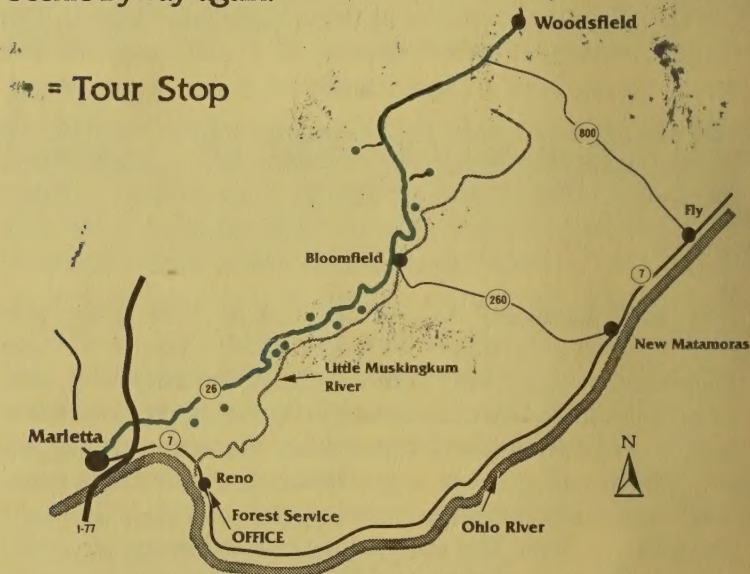
All pumped up? As you have been driving along Rt. 26 you probably noticed the gas and oil wells that dot the landscape. Some of these wells go down into the ground one or two miles! While still commercially productive,

you might notice that the pumps are not always pumping. It takes the oil a little while to seep into the wells. Depending on the well, the pump may run for only a few hours a day, producing a few barrels of oil each month. The oil is pumped to large storage tanks, that are serviced by oil companies who take the oil to their refineries for processing.

The End

Well, you're almost done with our tour. You have had a chance to see and learn about some of the rich heritage of many communities that the Covered Bridge Scenic Byway travels through, and we hope that you have had a good time traveling the byway. You have seen some of Harley Warricks "National Treasures", and know why covered bridges are covered!

In a few miles Rt. 26 will take you to the town of Woodsfield where the tour officially ends. Thanks for your visit, and we hope you will have the chance to drive the Covered Bridge Scenic Byway again.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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